

STATE OF MARYLAND * CRIMINAL NO. C-10-CR-21-000535
VS * IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
NORRIS BERNARD ELLIS * FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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STATE'S SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE

Comes now the State of Maryland by Tammy M. Leache, Assistant State's Attorney for Frederick County, hereby supplements the following information:

1. The State is identifying Dr. Pam Holtzinger, as an expert witness. Dr. Holtzinger is a Forensic Nurse Examiner and the Coordinator of the Forensic Nurse Services at Frederick Health Hospital.

2. Dr. Holtzinger will explain, based upon her training and experience, that the external injuries Alicia Popovich presented with during her Forensic examination are consistent with the history provided by Ms. Popovich as to how those injuries were sustained.

3. When the victim, Alicia Popovich, first presented, she had redness, scratch marks, fingernail impressions and contusion on her neck and petechial hemorrhaging, swelling and bruising to her right ear. She had redness, contusions and abrasions on her shoulders. She had contusions, and cuts/abrasions in her mouth and her lips were swollen. She had redness and scratches on her chest. She reported having headaches, memory/concentration problems and neck pain. She was experiencing coughing, a hoarse voice and a sore throat.

The trauma observed is consistent with strangulation and consistent with blood flow to the brain having been cut off. Dr. Holtzinger will explain that the arteries take blood and oxygen to the brain while simultaneously the venous system circulates blood from the brain back through the body. When the flow is interrupted by pressure on one or both sides of the neck, the pressure causes blood vessels to break as evidenced by hemorrhaging.

In cases of strangulation, experience shows that in 50% of strangulation cases there are NO outward signs or symptoms of trauma. Dr. Holtzinger will also explain that in times of traumatic event, the limbic system, or instinctive part of the brain takes over the rational brain (the neocortex) and the brain goes into survival mode. The amygdala is the part of the limbic system whose job is to sense danger; when trauma occurs adrenalin kicks in and all resources are diverted to survival. Consequently, other areas of the brain suffer, to include the hippocampus, whose function it is to store memory and the ability to recall with accuracy. Normal recording systems are interrupted and compromised. Memory may appear jumbled, chronology of events may be affected, and details may appear illogical. Strangulation has been likened to a stroke caused by a blood clot and lack of blood flow to the brain, where there will be an area of cell death. The effect of strangulation would be more generalized however the brain cells may be similarly compromised.

Dr. Holtzinger will testify that in her training and experience, she has had the opportunity on multiple occasions to treat patients with wounds of varying age, to include both fresh wounds and healing wounds. She will explain that the injuries the victim sustained appeared to be consistent with her report that they were sustained only hours earlier.

Dr. Holtzinger's testimony will conclude that the medical findings, combined with the history provided by the patient, are consistent with and indicate a near-fatal strangulation, based upon her advanced strangulation training and experience as a Forensic Nurse Examiner treating, documenting, and reviewing strangulation cases in the course of her duties as the Forensic Nurse Examiners Program Coordinator and Trainer.

Dr. Holtzinger's curriculum vitae will be supplemented.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 22 day of September, 2022, that a copy of the foregoing State's Supplemental Disclosure was sent via MDEC and/or Sharefile/Citrix, a secure file sharing service, to the designated e-mail address and/or service contact for Isabelle Raquin, Esquire, the Attorney for Defendant herein.

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